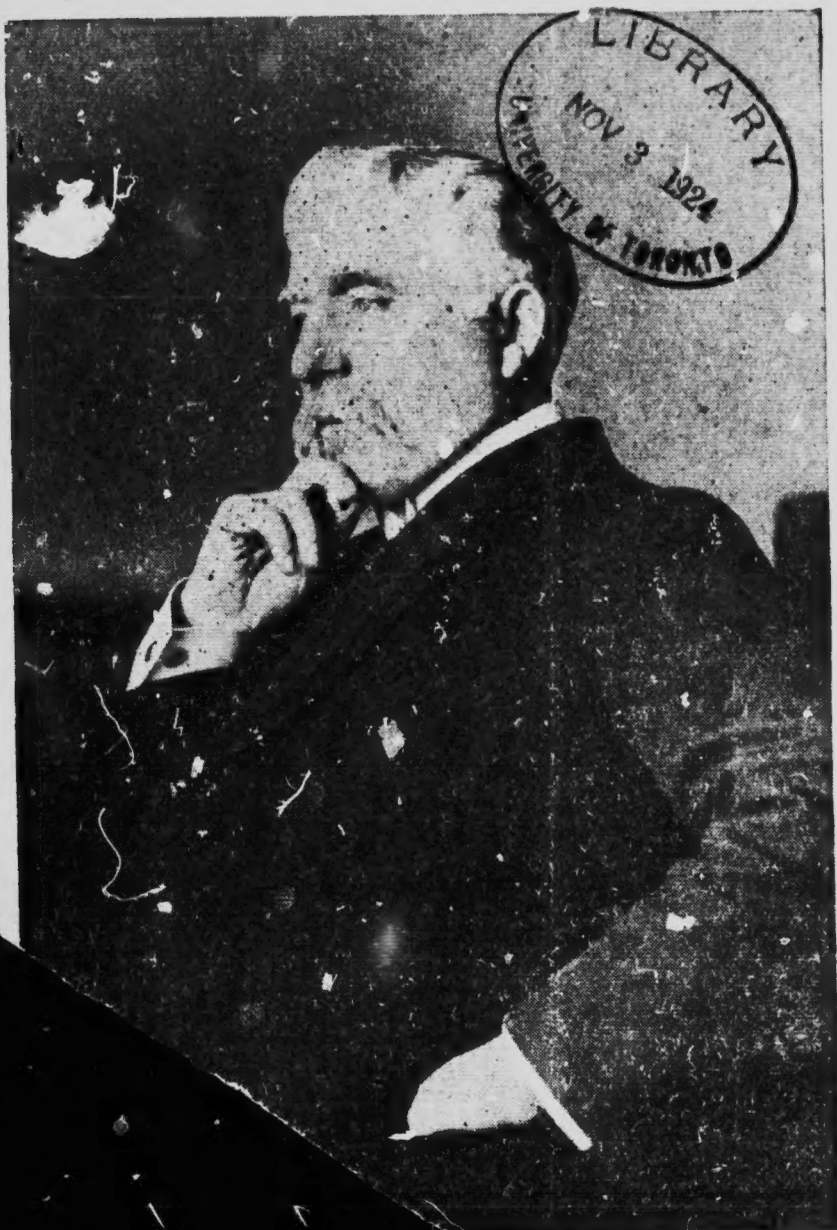


MANIFESTO

of the Right Hon. Sir Edward
P. Morris, K.C.M.G.



FOUNDLAND,

AR3538

MANIFESTO

To the Electors of Newfoundland:

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN:

As you are aware, a General Election has been proclaimed by His Excellency the Governor for the 30th of October. On that day you will be called upon to exercise your franchise as free men in selecting as your Representatives ~~those~~ whom you think can be safely entrusted with the conduct of public affairs. No more important duty than this devolves upon you, and as the future well-being of this Newfoundland of ours depends upon your decision, it is essential that in the selection of the men who are to be your trustees, every care should be exercised by you.

To aid you in arriving at a decision in this momentous matter, permit me to

BRIEFLY REVIEW THE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW YEARS.

and to draw therefrom the lessons which should influence every right-thinking man in the exercise of his functions as a citizen and voter, conscientiously endeavoring to do his duty by himself and his country.

When, in the summer of 1907, I retired from Sir Robert Bond's Cabinet, after having been, for nearly a quarter of a century, identified with the public life of the Colony, giving up the Attorney Generalship and the assured reversion of that party's leadership, I sacrificed whatever prospects the future had for me in that association, because I felt strongly that the rate of wages to be paid to our workingmen should be substantially increased, and conditions of real progress stimulated. Hence, when a few

months later, I was requested by representative electors of the whole country including the entire Opposition in the Legislature, and sections of the Liberal Party which, like myself, felt dissatisfied with the policy then being pursued,

**TO ORGANIZE A POLITICAL PARTY WHICH
SHOULD BE OF THE PEOPLE AND
FOR THE PEOPLE,**

I acceded to the request because I believed that at the head of such a party, if entrusted with power, I could do much to improve the condition of the country and of those who dwell within it.

The principal features of the policy of that party were:

REDUCTION OF TAXATION.

BRANCH RAILWAY EXTENSION.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCE.

FISHERY DEVELOPMENT.

TELEGRAPH AND MARCONI EXTENSION.

AGRICULTURAL PROGRESS.

IMPROVED COASTAL AND BAY STEAM SERVICE

ENCOURAGEMENT IN MINING MATTERS.

DREDGING OUR SHALLOW HARBORS.

**MORE FOG ALARMS, LIGHTHOUSES AND OTHER
COAST AIDS.**

**IMPROVEMENTS IN HOSPITALS AND ASYLUMS
AND CONSERVATION OF THE PUBLIC
HEALTH.**

These proposals were met by our opponents, not with any other policy calculated to attain the same end, but by an attempt to stampede the electors against our party by the repeated declaration that this program

**COULD RESULT ONLY IN BANKRUPTING THE
COLONY AND BRINGING ABOUT
CONFEDERATION.**

Every agency possible was utilized in the endeavor to persuade the electors that if we were returned to power the attempt to carry this policy into effect would inevitably

be followed by such financial disturbances as would bring down our whole commercial fabric and cause a return to the conditions which many will remember as having followed upon the memorable Bank disasters of nearly twenty years ago. In spite, however, of all these cries, and of other and more reprehensible efforts to influence the electorate, the people showed such a confidence in our party and in its pledges that, when the ballots were counted it was seen that Sir Robert Bond who, four years previously, had swept the country with 30 seats against 6, now held only 18, while we secured the same number, notwithstanding all the advantages which the Government of the day had in the possession of large sums of money for public works

**SPENT SO EXTRAVAGANTLY THROUGHOUT
THE DISTRICTS, THAT THE RESULT
WAS A DEFICIT OF ONE HUN-
DRED AND NINETY-NINE
THOUSAND DOLLARS
WHEN THE YEAR'S
ACCOUNTS WERE
MADE UP.**

Virtually defeated though he was, Sir Robert Bond clung to office until he was unable to do so there any longer; when, unwilling to meet the House of Assembly, he tendered his resignation, whereupon I was asked by His Excellency the Governor to form a Ministry which I did, and in the second election, in May, 1909, the People's Party was returned triumphantly with 26 men against 10, a seat in the District of Burin having since been gained in a bye-election.

The time has arrived when the Government, which speaks for the People's Party, is called upon to give you an account of its stewardship; in other words to satisfy you, if you are not already satisfied, that the contracts we made with you, the policies we outlined to you, the pledges we gave to you, the undertakings we assumed for you

**HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AS FULLY AND AS
FRUITFULLY AS HUMAN AGENCIES
COULD ACHIEVE.**

Look at the list of our promises enumerated above, and ask yourselves, as honest men, whether or not we have fairly made good our obligations in these directions? Ask yourselves, furthermore, whether we have not done more in four short years to improve the circumstances of the people of this country than any previous Government in the whole period of its existence?

We are building the branch railways, and not alone without increasing taxation, as our opponents charged five years ago that we would have to do; but in addition to carrying out the railway policy we have paid for every main feature of our program with the current revenues of the Colony, and have, in addition, provided substantial surpluses each year; and finally, at the last session we put in operation a policy of reducing taxation which returns to the people of the country the equivalent of \$400,000 annually.

**THE LARGEST REDUCTION OF TAXATION
EVER EFFECTED BY ANY ADMINISTRATION
HERE, AND MORE THAN TWICE
AS GREAT AS ANY ATTEMPTED
BY THE BOND PARTY.**

Even in the case of the Bond Party it is now an indisputable fact that when the duty was removed from certain articles, the duty on other articles was so increased as to bring back to the Treasury not alone all that was given to the people in imaginary reductions, but really \$35,000 a year more. In our case the reduction was actual, genuine and complete. The whole amount was taken off and nothing whatever was put on other articles.

I respectfully submit that never at any time was there in this country, or in any country, a more striking instance of a policy of great progress being more abundantly and completely justified than in the case of Newfoundland the past four years. Stagnation had prevailed previously, people were fleeing from the country wholesale, and when we took office there was a deficit in the Treasury of vir-

tually Two Hundred Thousand Dollars, which had to be provided for. Within a year we had transformed this into a surplus of \$310,000. Twelve months later, though providing in the meantime the interest on railway construction, we had a surplus of \$172,000. A year later, though substantially increasing the vote for various public services, we had a surplus of \$212,000 and for the fiscal year upon which we have now entered the estimated surplus is \$115,000. That these surpluses are genuine is proved by the following certificate from the Auditor-General:—

AUDITOR-GENERAL'S CERTIFICATE.

Auditor General's Office,

St. John's, Newfoundland,

September 22nd, 1913.

Sir:—In reply to your letter of this day's date, asking me to state the amount of the deficit or shortage in the Colony's revenue for the fiscal year 1908-09, and the amount of the surpluses for the succeeding years to date, I beg to reply as follows:

1908-09—deficit	...	...	...	...	\$199,221.57
1909-10—surplus	...	...	...	...	310,213.90
1910-11—	"	...	...	...	172,379.91
1911-12—	"	...	...	...	211,803.36
1912-13—	"	(Estimated)	...	...	115,000.00

The surplus in 1910 was really \$420,213.90, but you will remember that in the session of 1910, anticipating the closing of the accounts in that year, the Legislature voted \$100,000 for the repairs of marine works damaged and destroyed by storms around the coast in December, 1909; and \$10,000 for the Festival of Empire.

Yours truly,

F. C. BERTEAU,

Comptroller and Auditor General.

We expended the money represented by these surpluses in increasing the grants for the various public services—roads, bridges, marine works, telegraph extension, Old Age Pensions, Lighthouses, Fog Alarms, Education, etc., as can be seen by the following certificates:

CERTIFICATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Department of Public Works,

St. John's, Newfoundland,

September 22nd, 1913.

Sir,—

The amount expended on public works from Surpluses over and above the regular grants, during the past four years, was as follows:

1909-10	...	...	...	...	...	\$ 52,769.00
1910-11	...	...	...	...	...	47,005.00
1911-12	...	...	...	...	...	143,399.97
1912-13	...	...	...	...	...	120,926.33

Total \$364,100.30

Yours truly,

JAMES HARRIS,

Secretary.

CERTIFICATE FROM FISHERIES DEPT.

Department of Marine and Fisheries,

St. John's, Newfoundland,

September 24th, 1913.

Sir,—

The amount expended on Marine Works from Surpluses over and above the regular grants during the past four years was as follows:

1919-10	....	....	....	....	....	\$61,485.20
1910-11	...	...	...	...	...	40,355.55
1911-12	...	...	...	...	...	47,792.95
1912-13	...	...	...	...	...	78,515.94

Total \$228,149.64

Yours truly,

ALAN GOODRIDGE,

Deputy Minister.

CERTIFICATE FROM LIGHTHOUSE DEPT.

Lighthouse Department.
St. John's, Newfoundland,
September 6th, 1913.

Sir,—

In reply to yours dated 1st inst, I beg to inform you as follows.

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Number of Lighthouses opened and in operation since 1908 | 28 |
| 2. Number of Lighthouses now in course of construction | 15 |
| 3. Lighthouses improved since 1908 ... | 18 |
| 4. Fog Alarms opened and in operation during same period | 5 |
| 5. Fog Alarms now in course of construction | 8 |
| 6. Fog Alarms improved since 1908 .. | 3 |

In addition to the foregoing I might say that twenty-five wharf and small fishing lights have been supplied to different harbors around the coast.

Trusting this information is satisfactory,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

R. WHITE,
Inspector of Lighthouses.

CERTIFICATE FROM POSTAL DEPT.

Newfoundland Postal Telegraphs,
St. John's, Newfoundland,
September 25, 1913.

Sir,—

At the end of 1908 we had 123 Telegraph Offices open and in operation. Since then we have opened 54 new offices.

In 1908 we had 16 local cables, aggregating 19 miles in operation. Since then we have laid 18 cables aggregating $42\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Yours very truly,

DAVID STOTT,
Superintendent.

The foregoing documents speak for themselves. They show that all of this money has gone amongst the people for expenditure on services through which they get direct and substantial benefit; and they show, moreover,

**THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAS
DONE MORE FOR THE PEOPLE IN ALL
THESE RESPECTS THAN ANY GOV-
ERNMENT WHICH PRECEDED IT.**

But this does not represent anything like the sum of our achievements on behalf of the people. The regular votes for every public service were largely increased during our term of office, owing to the greatly augmented revenues which followed from our progressive policy, and we were able to provide appropriations for the various services which increased from \$2,699,398 in 1908, to \$3,736,034 in 1913.

At the same time our policy so stimulated industrial progress locally that whereas when we took office thousands were seeking employment and unable to obtain it, to-day not alone is there ample work for all in Newfoundland, but great numbers of our exiled sons are returning because they can do better at home than they can abroad. Wages are higher, employment more abundant, occupations more diversified, and new industrial conditions have been created whereby

**EVERY MAN WHO IS WILLING TO WORK CAN
OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT THE WHOLE
YEAR ROUND, AND AT A RATE OF
WAGES HIGHER THAN EVER
BEFORE.**

This then, gentlemen, in brief, is the record of our work since we took office in the early days of March, 1909, four and a half years ago, and I put it to you squarely—if we have done this in one term, if we have raised this country to a plane of prosperity such as she never previously attained, if we have stabilitated industrial and commercial enterprise, reduced taxation and enlarged the avenues of judicious public outlay, if we have brought home to

every man woman and child in the Island, no matter how poor or remotely located a share of all these good things, are we not justified in asking you to entrust us with office for another four years that we may continue our work of uplifting this country, enhancing its prosperity and adding to the material betterment of those who dwell within its borders?

I shall now set out the programme which we propose, if entrusted with a renewal of power, to carry into effect within the next four years.

REDUCTION OF TAXATION.

That the People's Party could have accomplished what it outlined five years ago in the way of public improvements, and at the same time effect a reduction of taxation, was ridiculed by our opponents as wholly impossible, but as I have already pointed out in this Address, the present Government proved itself able to effect these results and to remove the taxes from beef, pork, sugar, tea and other articles to the amount of \$400,000 a year, while at the same time increasing the votes for Education, Lighthouses, Relief of the Poor, Roads and Bridges, Old Age Pensions, Coastal and Bay Steam, Telegraph Services, etc., to the extent of one million and thirty-six thousand dollars annually. Realizing, however, that there are still inequalities in the Tariff which can be adjusted in such a way as to lessen the cost of living, and diminish the burden borne by those least able to bear it, one of our first tasks shall be a further revision of the Tariff in this direction.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

No feature of the Government's policy was more vehemently denounced than that which promised an Old Age Pension to our toil-worn workers, and this by men who themselves spent eight years toying with the project and accomplished nothing. To-day there are twelve hundred aged people receiving a pension of fifty dollars a year, and it is our intention, if elected, to add four hundred annually henceforth reducing, at the same time, the age limit to seventy years, as I foreshadowed when introducing the measure four years ago. At the same time I intimated that it might be possible to extend its operations to cases

of deserving women also, and I confidently expect that we can make provision for them as well.

Sir Robert Bond in his Manifesto issued on Saturday last advocated old age pensions for everybody, but took care not to include it in the twenty-seven promises which comprehend his policy for the future. This procedure is a deliberate and discreditable attempt to deceive the country. Sir Robert Bond has no intention whatever of carrying out any such old age pension scheme you have only to look at his record on this question when he was last in power to realize that fact. He knows very well that what he calls a universal pension scheme would involve an annual outlay of at least half a million dollars per year, and the dishonesty of this proposition is best shown by his denouncing our party elsewhere in the same manifesto for spending \$200,000 per year in interest on railway construction to develop the country.

BRANCH RAILWAYS.

Having conclusively demonstrated to this country that the argument of our opponents that the building of the branch railways would involve the Colony in financial ruin was absolutely unfounded, it will be our aim and object, according as the financial condition of the Colony will permit, to provide extensions of the railway system in directions where the need for such is most apparent. In view of the manner in which this Government has husbanded the resources of the Colony on the one hand, and promoted industrial advance on the other, we feel confident that the country will accept our assurance that this policy of further railway extension will be carried out only at such times and to such an extent as may with safety be done, having regard to other obligations that will have to be met in maintaining the country in the same solvent and prosperous condition in which it rejoices to-day.

FISHERY POLICY.

Realizing that for many years to come the fisheries of the Colony must be its mainstay, we promptly grappled with the problem of increasing for our people the value of their earnings from the ocean, notably by our conciliatory attitude towards the United States of America, with the

result that to-day we are assured of free entry into that valuable and ever-growing market for all our fishery products without having to give any compensating advantage in return, whereas the policy of Sir Robert Bond was to purchase this privilege by granting American fishermen free access to our bait supply. With the advantages which the free entry of our fish makes available, we can do much more in the coming years by working up this American market, and by applying new methods in the preparation of our fish, but especially by developing the export of fresh fish, for which 90,000,000 people in the neighbouring Republic are always available. It will be our earnest endeavour to facilitate by every possible means the progress of the Colony's fishing industry along these lines or any others conducing to its general advancement.

SUPPLY OF BAIT.

We propose to take measures to provide a supply of bait for our fishermen. Heretofore attempts have been made to accomplish this by dealing with private corporations and individuals from abroad, but without effect, and now the Government aims to bring about this result by imitating the systems adopted in other countries in relation to the supply of bait, with a view of applying the same to this country, and arranging for the distribution of bait to the fishermen in such a manner as will enable them to avoid the serious losses that now follow the failure to obtain bait when fish are abundant.

FOSTERING THE FISHERIES.

During the past four years we have been endeavouring to assist the fishermen and foster the fishing industry in the following ways:—

1. Creating an insurance fund for the relief of those who lose their bread-winners by marine disasters.
2. Providing a daily telegraphic Bait and Fishery intelligence service all over the Island, and establishing a Weather Office that sends news twice a day to every part of the country telling of weather conditions so as to make it safe for the fishermen.
3. Securing the building of five factories for the conversion of fish offal and dogfish into fertilizer and glue, the first of which is now in operation at Burnt Islands.

4. Restoring friendly relations with the Americans so as to increase the herring fishery and the returns our people get from it.

5. Prohibiting steamers from engaging in the Labrador fishery, so that our sailing crafts might not be crowded out.

6. Establishing trade agencies abroad to promote better markets for our fish.

7. Initiating lobster breeding experiments last year with highly satisfactory results.

8. Promoting a movement with Canada to prevent steam trawling on the Grand Banks.

9. Placing a steamer on Northern Labrador for the benefit of fishermen operating there.

10. Establishing and improving 77 lighthouses and fog alarms around our coast and along Labrador to help the fishermen.

11. Arranging for a survey of the Labrador coast so as to open up new fishing grounds.

12. Guaranteeing the construction of docks at Harbor Grace and other centres, thus creating new industries and providing a ready and cheap means for the dockage of fishing vessels.

13. Carrying out a vigorous policy for aiding every man or vessel in distress or danger round our coast.

14. Providing a dredge for the dredging of shallow harbours all round the seaboard.

15. Incorporating a local Marine Insurance Company for the benefit of the fish trading vessels.

16. Extending the telegraph system to districts previously without it and establishing more wireless stations on the North Coast and Labrador.

Our policy henceforth will be to continue to provide judicious encouragement for the fishing industry along these and other lines remembering that the three essentials for which all—government, merchants and fishermen—should strive, are the development of the fisheries themselves, the securing of higher prices for the catch, and the opening up of new markets.

PREVENTING WASTE IN THE FISHERIES.

In addition to developing new markets, putting up fish in newer and more attractive forms, and promoting a fresh fish industry another factor in increasing the value of our fishery products to the people is that of coping with the waste that now exists in connection with the conversion of our fishery products into marketable commodities. The waste from our fish to-day is enormous. Fully one-third of every codfish is not usable, and the Government, having this in view, effected arrangements a year ago with an American Company to establish five factories in Newfoundland to convert fish offal into fertilizer and glue, and to use in addition in their process the dogfish which now are proving so serious a menace to the codfishery. One of the factories is at present in operation at Burnt Island, in Burgeo District, with highly satisfactory results, and the construction of the others will follow in accordance with the terms of the contract. The Government hope to induce these capitalists, or others, to enlarge their operations in this respect in the near future, so as to provide one of these factories in every large fishing section, and thereby enable the people to turn into cash what is at present valueless material.

LOBSTER FISHERY.

One of the most alarming features of the lobster fishery is the fact that since 1889, or in less than 25 years, the catch of lobsters has steadily declined from 76,226 cases to 26,170 cases in 1912, which, at the current price, represents a loss to the country of over a million dollars a year. To arrest the further decline of this valuable fishery and to insure to our people a larger share of the splendid returns now coming from the high price of lobsters, the Government proposes to continue its policy in the direction of the preservation of the seed lobster and to apply to this object the most modern methods in use in other countries, to increase the supply available, so that this most desirable result may be speedily achieved.

THE CULL OF FISH.

The question of the cull of fish is one that has engaged the attention of the Government since taking office, and public conferences have been held with the fishermen with

regard thereto. Armed with the information thus obtained and with other information that may be procurable, legislation will be prepared to deal with the question in all its issues.

AGRICULTURE.

No department of the industrial existence of this Colony was more neglected than that of Agriculture before this Government assumed power, and no feature of our policy has been more bitterly assailed, than that whereby we sought to improve it, because, of course, our success by contrast with the failure of the Bond Party has been the more remarkable by the creation of 100 agricultural societies all over the island, the promoting of exhibitions in various districts, and the securing of a cheap and uniform rate for agricultural products by trains and steamers for the whole Island. Already the advantages of this progressive and comprehensive policy are showing themselves throughout the Colony, and that they will continue to exercise a marked influence on the development of our agricultural resources in the future is indisputable. We propose to continue and expand this policy henceforth, in the confident expectation that before many years the greater part of the millions now sent abroad for the purchase of foodstuffs that are procurable locally will be retained at home, and the labor and possibilities of profit embodied in producing these articles afforded our own people.

COAL AND OIL.

Impressed with the seriousness of the situation created by the price of coal, the Government has endeavoured to induce outside capitalists to undertake the development of our coal areas, just as our predecessors had made similar and unavailing efforts with the Messrs. Reid, and also the Messrs. Harmsworth; and to that end entered into contracts for the working of our coal areas; but no result ensuing, the Government has begun negotiations with the Imperial authorities with a view to securing the services of Professor Dunstan, the Director of the Imperial Institute in London, who will come here early next year and make a thorough examination of our coal areas, and also investigate the possibilities of the country in relation to oil shale, extensive deposits of which are known to exist on

the branch line of railway now being built to Bonne Bay, and the importance of which is greatly increased by the fact that the Admiralty are seeking to secure within the Empire supplies of oil for fuel for the Navy.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF HOME INDUSTRIES.

Following on the policy so successfully inaugurated by this Government, by providing a stimulus for the establishment of docks at Harbor Grace and other points, as well as the industrial projects now in operation, we have in view a comprehensive scheme whereby other large labor-giving industries will be established in the Colony during the next few years, which will afford employment to large numbers of our people and transform into commercial commodities material at present lying useless. The advantages of a policy of encouraging home industries are too apparent to need elaboration. The local industries we possess to-day have done much to solve the problem of providing labor for our people at high wages, and any addition we can make to these enterprises will not alone secure employment for others, but help to increase the wages of operatives in concerns at present in existence.

EDUCATION.

During our term of office, as you are aware, we assisted Education to an extent never before attempted. We increased the Education grant by more than \$100,000 in four years, a larger increase than the Bond party made in nine years. We provided for schools in every settlement with sufficient children of a schoolable age to make up a school. We made a special grant of \$100,000 to construct new buildings and improve old ones. We created pensions for school-teachers and gave Education such an uplift as none had ever given it previously. Our aim is to further add to the votes for Education as generously as may prove possible, consistent with the Colony's other obligations, and to provide for the establishing of Continuation or Night Schools in the Outports and St. John's, as announced at the last session of the Legislature, where our young people who have left school may receive instruction in subjects calculated to assist them in furthering their fishery and industrial avocations.

MORE MAIN-LINE ROADS.

As the advantages of the branch lines of railway are being brought home to the people of the extern districts, the need for main-line roads to connect with the railway those other sections which are not directly tapped by the branches, and to afford access to areas of agricultural land close to the railway which can be formed with the best prospects of profit, becomes more and more apparent, while the claims of those sections of our seaboard, not served by the railway, to better means of communication, likewise call for our best consideration. The Government has made a start in this direction in providing such roads during the term now ending, and will continue this policy on a larger scale the coming four years.

THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE.

The problem of safeguarding the health of the people was one that pressed on us so imperatively that action with regard to it could no longer be postponed. We know on the authority of our late Governor, Sir William MacGregor, and the leading medical men of the Colony, that nearly one thousand persons amongst us die every year of consumption, and at least as many more of infantile diseases and maladies easily preventable by medical science, and it is also certain that a large percentage of these losses is due to bad water supply in many of the Outports. Heretofore legislation has provided for a good supply for St. John's, Harbor Grace, Carbonear, Heart's Content, Placentia, and these places have been enabled to cope with this contingency. The Government now proposes to inaugurate a policy of assuring to other places a similar convenience; and, where such is not possible, providing properly covered sanitary wells with pumps, according to the most modern ideas, so as to relieve the people of this menace to their physical welfare. At the same time the policy of coping with Tuberculosis by means of an active medical campaign will be continued.

ADVERTISING THE COLONY'S RESOURCES.

The present Government has made a special effort, since taking office, to bring before the outside world the advantages of this country for the settler, the capitalist,

the sportsman and the tourist, in the belief that by ceaseless advertising of its resources, through the means of articles, addresses, interviews, pamphlets, and other advantages in these respects might be converted into substantial results, and already projects are on foot which promise to operate most beneficially. The growing sporting and tourist traffic of the country has increased leaps and bounds and ensures large expenditures for our people. This policy will be continued in the future, such efforts made in this direction as seem likely to be productive of adequate returns.

PROMOTION OF PROSPERITY

True to the policy it has consistently pursued since assuming office, this Government will continue its unflinching and unflagging efforts to maintain the Colony's financial and commercial prosperity by carrying out such measures of a really progressive character, wisely and judiciously conceived, as will assist in maintaining and pushing the Island Home forward along the highway of material well-being to an even greater advance than she has made thus far.

THE BOND PARTY IN OPPOSITION.

Sir Robert Bond, as Leader of the Opposition, has failed to advance any effective or consistent set of arguments which will convince the electorate that the present Government should be displaced in favor of the hybrid aggregation of place-seekers who are now trying to attain office for their own ends. The lamentable failure of the Party under Sir Robert Bond to give the Colony a strong and progressive administration was one of the chief causes for the crushing defeat sustained by his party in 1903, and by comparison with the brilliant record of the People's Party in the brief space of time since it assumed office, the slackness and futility of the Bond party are even more glaringly apparent to-day than when they were swept from power by an incensed people. Since that time the Bond party have utterly failed to show any evidence that they have learned the stern lesson of their defeat, for in Opposition they have continued the same ineffectual and lax methods which distinguished them as administrators. Small in number, deficient in ideas and ideals of statesman-

ship, and lacking the support or confidence of the country, they have in the Assembly showed themselves incapable of intelligent proposals or administrative actions, and in the discussion of public affairs they have proven themselves unable to offer valuable or helpful suggestions, advance constructive or workable measures, or marshal valid arguments against proposed legislation. A party so weak and useless in opposition can scarcely hope to appeal to the intelligent voters as worthy to be placed in positions of power and responsibility.

THE OPPOSITION ALLIANCE.

The action of Sir Robert Bond in entering into an alliance recently is the final and most convincing admission of the fatal weakness of the opposition cause. Had Sir Robert and his advisors the slightest hope that they could regain the respect and support of the voters of Newfoundland on their own merits, they would not have hampered themselves with an ally who sooner or later is bound to seriously embarrass them by exorbitant or impossible demands, menacing the credit, the prosperity and the well-being of the whole people. The violence and viciousness displayed by him in his indiscriminate and uncalled-for attacks upon respectable and honored individuals, upon important institutions and classes, upon both political parties and members thereof, including his present political partner, Sir Robert Bond, and myself, all furnish an additional strong reason why the pretensions of the Bondites to again be placed in power should be sternly and imperatively rebuked by the people's ballots.

CONFEDERATION.

The insincerity and untrustworthiness of Sir Robert Bond's pre-election deliverances is nowhere more strikingly shown than in the refutation furnished by my party and myself to his extravagant and utterly false charges and predictions that the success of the People's Party would be a certain prelude to Confederation. Sir Robert Bond in his manifestoes of 1908 and 1909 charged the People's Party with conspiracy, and explicitly stated that if the Liberal Party were defeated "uin, bankruptcy and Confederation" would be the inevitable result. In my Manifestoes I re-

puddied these baseless slanders on the Colony, the party and myself. The events of the past four years have amply vindicated the People's Party, verified our promises, and completely falsified Robert Bond's empty charges and prophecies. Under the direction of the People's Party Newfoundland has made such strides that she has demonstrated to the British Empire and to the world her ability to work out her highest destiny as a separate entity, and Confederation is to-day a more remote possibility than ever before in the history of the country. No breath of suspicion has ever been or could be raised against the Government's loyalty to Newfoundland, and if the present prosperity and contentment of the people is not checked by handing over the control of affairs to weak and incapable hands, Confederation can never be an issue again.

WHAT THE FISHERMEN HAVE GAINED.

I respectfully submit that if the present Government had done nothing else than transform the condition of the fishermen from what existed here five years ago, it would have justified itself to the country and established a claim for a renewal of office. In the Fall of 1908, as all will remember, the price of fish was so low that Sir Robert Bond thought it necessary to advise the fishermen to hold back their fish in the belief that they might secure a better figure for it. To-day the fisherman is getting a higher price for his catch than ever before in this country, and in addition is ensured of constant employment till the snow comes, in building branch railways and in other industrial pursuits which were not possible then. I might point out further that although the past few years have witnessed fisheries on the Labrador coast, that under other circumstances would have been followed by widespread depression and distress, the situation was saved for the country and comparative contentment assured to these people by the labor which the railway building provided.

Again I would point out that the tariff reductions and other advantages brought home to the people by the present Government have resulted in reducing the taxes paid by the fishing and laboring classes, as can be seen by the following statement, which represents a fisherman's ordinary account, giving the duties thereon which he paid in 1882 and those he pays the present year:

DUTY PAYABLE

		Amount	1882	1913
7 Bbl. Flour	\$6 50	\$45 50	\$1 75	Free
4 Bags Bread	5 20	20 80	....	Free
2 Bbl. Pork	26 00	52 00	3 00	Free
1 Bbl. Beef . . . . .	....	23 00	1 00	Free
120 lbs. Butter	20	24 00	....	Free
40 Gals Molasses	45	18 00	2 70	Free
200 lbs. Sugar	05	10 00	6 25	Free
40 Hhds. Salt	1 60	64 00	2 00	Free
1 Cask Kero. Oil	42 gals.	7 56	2 52	Free
1 Box Tea	30 lbs.	12 00	3 30	Free
30 lbs. Currants	07	2 10	90	Free
20 lbs. Raisins	09	1 80	60	60
12 lbs. Coffee	30	3 60	84	60
100 lbs. Beans	05	5 00	1 20	50
28 lbs. Rice	4½	1 26	28	07
1 Bbl. Peas . . . . .	....	5 50	30	30
1 Side Leather	20 lbs.	7 60	1 25	1 00
4 Coils Manilla	180 lbs.	27 00	2 18	2 18
1 Box Soap . . . . .	....	3 00	80	45
2 Cans Paint . . . . .	....	4 00	30	30
1 Cad. Tobacco	20 lbs.	12 00	6 00	6 30
3 Suits Oil Clothes	2 60	7 80	1 62	1 90
2 Doz. Lines . . . . .	....	3 50	25	25
2 Suits Men's Clothes . . . . .	....	11 00	2 00	2 90
2 Pair Men's Boots . . . . .	....	9 00	1 65	1 92
2 Suits Underclothes . . . . .	....	3 00	50	70
50 Fms. Cod Netting	60	30 00	4 00	4 00
			\$414 02	\$47 19 23 97

The foregoing, as I say, is a copy of a fisherman's ordinary account, showing a total of \$414.02. On this he paid duty in 1882 of \$47.19, whereas to-day the duty on the same account is only \$23.97, or, roughly, only half what he then had to pay. Of this reduction the amount taken off by the present Government represents \$14.50, while that effected by the Bond Government was only \$9.42, and in that case, as I previously pointed out, duties were increased on other articles to make up this amount.

THE RAILWAY POLICY.

Our opponents are concentrating their criticism against the present Government on its railway policy, and charging that these railways are unnecessary. The whole history of the railway enterprise in this Colony emphatically disproves that argument, and I might remind the electors that in its earlier days the "Fishermen's Advocate" was the strongest supporter of the railway policy inaugurated by us, and that some of Sir Robert Bond's supporters in the Legislature were outspoken in their advocacy of these railways, while he himself thirty years ago proposed in the Assembly the construction of some of the branches now being built.

In 1882, before we built a mile of railway in Newfoundland, our revenue was about \$1,000,000. To-day, 1913, our revenue is \$4,000,000. In 1882 wages were 80 cents a day, fish \$3.00 per quintal and the people were flying out of the country. To-day wages are from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day, fish is \$6.50, and our people are returning to the country. Since 1882 we have been able to place flour, molasses, tea, sugar, pork, beef, kerosene oil, salt, lines and twines, cordage, hay, agricultural implements, machinery, motor engines, gasoline for fishermen, and a number of other articles on the free list.

In the face of these convincing facts will anyone say that railway construction has not been the saviour of Newfoundland? Why, if all this prosperity and advancement had been accomplished without placing these articles on the free list, but continuing our old tariff, it would have been a splendid result; but to have achieved it and reduced taxation to our people \$800,000 annually, almost staggers one.

With regard to branch railway expenditure, the whole of the interest charge so far is only \$210,000, and we obtain half of this by the royalty on ore exported from Bell Island, and the other half by the increase in Crown Lands revenue that has followed upon our policy since taking office.

IN CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would put it to you that this country of ours has to decide to-day whether she will support a policy of progress and advancement that will provide employment for her people which will give them

larger compensation than they have hitherto been able to secure; which will develop her dormant resources, and by so doing retain her young people at home; or whether, on the other hand, she will give herself over to conditions of stagnation, depression, socialistic and revolutionary theories, and allow even lawless anarchism to hold sway within her borders.

For progress and advancement, for greater prosperity and more widespread contentment amongst our people, the party which I have the honor to lead stands to-day as five years ago, and its record speaks for itself. Arrayed against it is a patchwork combination effected at the last moment by men who have no policy in common except to secure public office, and who, if they were to be entrusted with the reins of power, must eventually work disaster to the Colony.

On behalf of the People's Party and its candidates I solicit your votes at the coming election. The decision must rest with you and you alone. Will you vote for a continuance of the good times, the high wages, the glowing prospects we now rejoice in, or will you vote for a change with the certainty of stagnation, revolution and wholesale emigration?

Yours faithfully,

E. P. MORRIS.

